4.14 OTHER RESOURCE TOPICS

4.14.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes all other environmental topics, including agricultural resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and mineral resources that would either not be affected by the proposed project or that the impacts of the project would be less than significant.

4.14.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The project would not

- convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use;
- conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract;
- involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use.

The project site was developed with a hospital and related land uses between 1962 and 1968 and is located in a developed area with no agricultural land uses near the site. Project implementation would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses. Project implementation would not involve other changes in the existing environment that would result in conversion of off-site farmland to non-agricultural uses. According to the Department of Conservation, the project site is not under a Williamson Act Contract. Implementation of the project would not conflict with existing agricultural zoning or with a Williamson act contract. The proposed project would have no impact on agricultural resources.

4.14.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The project would not

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5;
- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;
- directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature;
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

The project site is fully developed and currently occupied by a vacant hospital building, other general office buildings (some of which are occupied), paved parking lots, internal roadways, and landscaping. The hospital building on the project site has not been identified as a historic resource by the City of Santa Clara. The project site has been disturbed during construction of the Kaiser Hospital facility and ,therefore, the potential to encounter archaeological resources during project grading is low.

However, it is possible that there could be previously undiscovered prehistoric features and human burials in the subsurface soils on the project site. These could potentially be exposed during earthmoving and excavation activities associated with implementing the project. Any damage or destruction to these resources would constitute a significant impact.

The following mitigation measures would be incorporated as a condition of final approval for the project. Because these measures would be implemented as part of the project, impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: The City shall require the applicant to include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in the construction contract for the project, which requires that in the event that an archaeological resources is discovered during construction (whether or not an archaeologist is present), all soil disturbing work within 100 feet of the find shall cease. In the event an archaeological site is encountered during the subsurface testing or during construction, the applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist to determine whether the resource qualifies as a historical resource or a unique archaeological resource. If the resources is determined to be a historical resources or a unique archaeological resources, the qualified archaeologist, in consultation with the City, shall prepare a research design and archaeological data recovery plan for the recovery that will capture those categories of data for which the site is significant, and implement the data recovery plan prior to or during development of the site. The archaeologist shall also perform appropriate technical analyses, prepare a full written report and file it with the appropriate information center, and provide for the permanent curation of recovered materials.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1b: If human remains are encountered during project construction, the requirements of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Section 7052 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097 will be met. The California Health and Safety Code requires that if human remains are found in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, excavation is to be halted in the immediate area, and the county coroner is to be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American interment, then the Native American Heritage

Commission shall be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and the appropriate disposition of the remains.

4.14.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The project would not

- expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault (refer to CGS Special Publication 42);
  - strong seismic ground-shaking;
  - seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
  - landslides.
- result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil;
- be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse;
- be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property; or
- have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.

A preliminary geotechnical investigation report was prepared for the project site (Construction Testing and Engineering 2007). No earthquake faults identified as active are located within the City of Santa Clara. The City is 7 miles from both the San Andreas and Calaveras Faults and 5 miles from the Hayward Fault. The project site is located 4.8 miles from the Monte-Vista-Shannon fault, with an estimated maximum earthquake magnitude of 6.8 (Mw). The project site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Ground rupture from faulting is unlikely since there are no known active earthquake faults within the City limits.

The site could be subject to moderate to severe ground shaking in the event of an earthquake on any of the above referenced faults or other faults within the northern California region. The investigation found that geologic hazards at the site would be primarily limited to those caused by strong shaking from earthquake-generated ground motion waves. The effects of seismic ground shaking would be reduced by

adhering to 1997 California Uniform Building Code (UBC) and seismic design parameters. The report found that the majority of the soils on the project site are of high clay content and plasticity. Therefore, the site is not considered to have a significant liquefaction potential. The report also concluded that the potential for landslides or rockslides to affect the site is considered very low since the project site is situated on flat land, which is typically not subject to landslides and erosion. Additionally, the potential for seismic settlement resulting in damage to site improvements is considered low. The alluvium at the site consists of stiff to hard silty to sandy clay, medium dense clayey sandy fine gravel, and a medium dense silty fine to coarse sand.

The report found that the site is underlain by alluvial fan deposits. According to the report, the expansion index of the soils was found to be 95, which indicates a high potential for expansion. The geotechnical report includes measures to address expansive soils, including overexcation and placement of competent fill. The project site is currently urbanized and sewers are available for the disposal of wastewater. Therefore, implementation of the project would not require septic tanks or alternative wastewater treatment facilities.

The project site is located within Seismic Zone 4 as designated in the UBC. Compliance with applicable building codes would ensure that the proposed project would be protected from most earthquake events. The City of Santa Clara would require the project to conform to the UBC and to meet all applicable geological and earthquake design standards through the project approval process. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact to geological resources.

4.14.5 MINERAL RESOURCES

The project would not

- result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the state; or
- result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

The City of Santa Clara General Plan describes soil conditions of the Santa Clara Valley and states that there are no significant mineral resources in the City. The California Geological Survey has mapped aggregate availability in the state, and no aggregate production areas have been identified in the City of Santa Clara. Additionally, there are no known mineral resources on the project site. Extensive excavation of topsoil has occurred on the site in the past due to construction of the hospital buildings and supporting infrastructure, and it is unlikely that valuable mineral resources exist. Implementation of the project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources that would be of value to the

region and the residents of the state. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on mineral resources.

4.14.6 REFERENCES

City of Santa Clara. 2002. General Plan. http://santaclaraca.gov/community/au_gen_plan_index.html. Accessed January 30, 2008.

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